

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-32 (canceled).

33. (original): A method of reducing a metal content of a fluorine-containing elastomer through preparation thereof by substantially reducing, from inside of the fluorine-containing elastomer, a content of metal remaining after ashing, in which the elastomer is prepared by using materials containing substantially no metal component as all the materials used for polymerization of a fluorine-containing monomer, coagulation and drying, by employing an equipment, a part of which comes into contact with an emulsion, emulsified dispersion or coagulated fluorine-containing elastomer containing water and is made of or lined with fluorine-containing resin or polyethylene resin, and by drying with a clean gas.

34. (original): A method of reducing a metal content of a fluorine-containing elastomer through preparation thereof by substantially reducing, from inside of the fluorine-containing elastomer, a metal content remaining after ashing, in which the elastomer is prepared by using materials containing substantially no metal component as all the materials used for polymerization of a fluorine-containing monomer, coagulation and drying, by carrying out emulsion-polymerization of the fluorine-containing elastomer while maintaining an emulsion in a weak alkaline state, by carrying out coagulation of an emulsified dispersion of the fluorine-containing elastomer by using an acid containing no metal element, and by employing an equipment, a part of which comes into contact with an emulsion, emulsified dispersion or

coagulated fluorine-containing elastomer containing water and is made of or lined with a fluorine-containing resin or polyethylene resin.

35. (original): A method of reducing a metal content of a fluorine-containing polymer through preparation thereof, in which an equipment which is lined with a fluorine-containing resin or polyethylene resin on its part coming into contact with materials for polymerization and a product polymer is used.

36. (original): The method of reducing a metal content of the fluorine-containing polymer of Claim 35, wherein the equipment lined with a fluorine-containing resin is a polymerizing equipment such as a polymerization vessel and agitation blades and baffle plates thereof, coagulation equipment, washing equipment, drying equipment or pipes thereof.

37. (original): The method of reducing a metal content of the fluorine-containing polymer of Claim 35, wherein the fluorine-containing resin is tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) copolymer.